

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

FRANCHISE GROUP, INC., *et al.*¹

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-12480 (JTD)

(Jointly Administered)

Ref. Docket No. 4

**INTERIM ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS
TO MAINTAIN AND ADMINISTER THEIR EXISTING
CUSTOMER PROGRAMS AND HONOR CERTAIN PREPETITION
OBLIGATIONS RELATED THERETO, (II) AUTHORIZING THE
BANKS TO HONOR AND PROCESS CHECK AND ELECTRONIC TRANSFER
REQUESTS RELATED THERETO, AND (III) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

Upon consideration of the motion (the “Motion”)² of the debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned cases (collectively, the “Debtors”) for entry of an interim order and a final order, pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, (i) authorizing the Debtors

¹ The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM, LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy’s Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy’s Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260); Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123); Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies “Plus”, LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors’ headquarters is located at 109 Innovation Court, Suite J, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

to maintain and administer the Customer Programs and honor certain prepetition obligations related thereto, (ii) authorizing the Banks to honor and process check and electronic transfer requests related thereto, and (iii) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated as of February 29, 2012; and the requested relief being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and venue of this proceeding and the Motion being proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief granted herein is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates and their creditors; and due and proper notice of the Motion having been given and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules having been satisfied by such notice; and no other or further notice of the Motion being required; and an interim hearing having been held to consider the interim relief requested in the Motion (the "Hearing"); and upon the record of the Hearing; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and it appearing that the relief requested in the Motion is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors and their estates as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 6003; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is granted on an interim basis as set forth herein.
2. A final hearing on the relief sought in the Motion shall be conducted on **December 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ET)** (the "Final Hearing"). Any party-in-interest objecting to the relief sought at the Final Hearing or entry of the Final Order shall file and serve a written objection, which objection shall be served upon (i) proposed co-counsel for the Debtors, (a) Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019, Attn: Debra M. Sinclair, Esq.

(dsinclair@willkie.com) and Betsy L. Feldman, Esq. (bfeldman@willkie.com), and (b) Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Edmon L. Morton, Esq. (emorton@ycst.com) and Matthew B. Lunn, Esq. (mlunn@ycst.com); (ii) counsel to any official committee appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases; (iii) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware, J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Timothy J. Fox, Esq. (timothy.fox@usdoj.gov); (iv) counsel to the DIP Agent, Seward & Kissel LLP, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004, Attn: Gregg Bateman, Esq. (bateman@sewkis.com), Sagar Patel, Esq. (patel@sewkis.com), and Michael Danenberg, Esq. (danenberg@sewkis.com); (v) counsel to the DIP Lenders and Ad Hoc Group of First Lien Lenders, (a) Paul Hastings LLP, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, Attn: Jayme Goldstein, Esq. (jaymegoldstein@paulhastings.com), Daniel Fliman, Esq. (danfliman@paulhastings.com), and Nicholas Bassett, Esq. (nicholasbassett@paulhastings.com), and (b) Landis Rath & Cobb LLP, 919 N. Market Street Suite 1800, Wilmington, DE 19317, Attn: Adam G. Landis, Esq. (landis@lrclaw.com) and Matthew McGuire, Esq. (mcguire@lrclaw.com); (vi) counsel to the ABL Lenders, Latham & Watkins LLP, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, Attn: Jennifer Ezring, Esq. (Jennifer.Ezring@lw.com), James Ktsanes, Esq. (James.Ktsanes@lw.com) and Andrew Sorkin, Esq. (andrew.sorkin@lw.com); (vii) counsel to the Second Lien Term Loan Lenders, White & Case LLP, 200 S Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33131, Attn: Thomas Lauria, Esq. (tlauria@whitecase.com), and 111 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 5100, Chicago, IL 60606, Attn: Bojan Guzina, Esq. (bojan.guzina@whitecase.com); and (viii) counsel to the Holdco Lenders at the address set forth in (vii) above, in each case no later than November 20,

2024 at 4:00 p.m. (ET). If no objections to the entry of the Final Order are timely filed, this Court may enter the Final Order without further notice or a hearing.

3. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to continue to administer Customer Programs currently in effect, modify such programs as in the ordinary course of business, and honor any prepetition Customer Obligations related to the Customer Programs, on an interim basis, without regard to whether the Debtors' obligations arose before, on, or after the Petition Date; provided, however, that any cash payments on account of prepetition Customer Obligations related to the Customer Programs shall not exceed \$14.86 million on an interim basis, unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

Program	Anticipated Cash Spend
Warranty	\$1.4 million
Layaway	\$5.7 million
Gift Cards	\$60,000
Franchisees	\$7.7 million
Chargebacks	De minimis

4. The Debtors are authorized to continue, replace, implement, modify, and/or terminate one or more of the Customer Programs, in each case as the Debtors deem appropriate in their business judgment and in the ordinary course of business, without further Court Order and with five (5) business days' notice to any official committee appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases in advance of such changes; provided, however, in the event the Debtors determine it appropriate to discontinue the practice of accepting Gift Cards, the Debtors shall provide notice of such termination no later than seven (7) business days' prior thereto through prominent displays on the Debtors' respective e-commerce websites and store locations, including Point of Sale terminals.

5. The Banks on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and the Banks are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Interim Order without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtors' instructions.

6. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to continue to operate under the Merchant Services Agreements. The Debtors are authorized to pay or reimburse the Payment Processors for the Merchant Services Obligations, whether such obligations incurred pre- or post-petition, and the Payment Processors are authorized to receive or obtain payment for such Merchant Services Obligations, as provided for herein, and in accordance with the terms of the Merchant Services Agreements, including, without limitation, by way of recoupment or setoff without further order of this Court. Any claim a Payment Processor may have under the Merchant Services Agreements shall be entitled to, in addition to any other lien, collateral, or payment priority rights in support thereof, administrative expense priority status pursuant to section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. Any payment made pursuant to this Interim Order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

8. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these Chapter 11 Cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

9. Nothing in this Interim Order shall create any obligation by Freedom VCM, Inc. or Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (together, the “HoldCo Debtors”) to pay any amounts in connection with this Interim Order, and none of the HoldCo Debtors’ assets will be used to satisfy any other Debtor’s obligations in connection with this Interim Order; provided, however, that the Debtors reserve the right to request that this Court later determine whether the HoldCo Debtors should satisfy any such obligation.

10. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Interim Order.

11. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied because the relief set forth in this Interim Order is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm.

12. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Interim Order shall be effective and enforceable immediately upon its entry.

13. Nothing in this Interim Order shall be construed to (a) create or perfect, in favor of any person or entity, any interest in cash of a Debtor that did not exist as of the Petition Date or (b) alter or impair any security interest or perfection thereof, in favor of any person or entity, that existed as of the Petition Date.

14. Nothing in this Interim Order, nor as a result of any payment made pursuant to this Interim Order, shall be deemed or construed as a waiver of the right of Debtors, or shall impair the ability of Debtors, to contest the validity and amount of any payment made pursuant to this Interim Order.

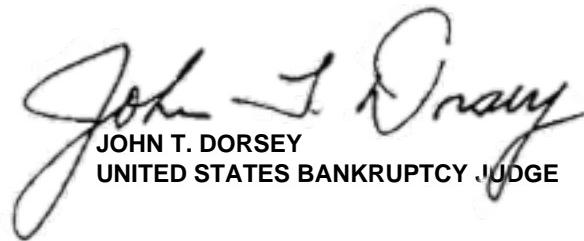
15. Nothing in this Interim Order shall create, nor is intended to create, any rights in favor of or enhance the status of any claim held by any party.

16. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, any payment made, or authorization contained, hereunder shall be subject in all respects to the Approved Budget (as such term is defined in the order approving the Debtors' postpetition financing agreements).

17. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

18. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Interim Order.

Dated: November 6th, 2024
Wilmington, Delaware



JOHN T. DORSEY
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE